

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: OMURA, Yoshiharu

SERIAL NO.:

FILED: Herewith

TITLE: CAN COVER WITH A STAY-ON TAB

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In conjunction with the filing of the present application, and prior to an initial Official Action on this matter, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

In Paragraph [0004], please substitute the paragraph as follows:

However, the conventional can cover with said stay-on tab has the following disadvantages.

In Paragraph [0018], please substitute the paragraph as follows:

The can cover is often swelled upward by the expansion of the contents of the can. This is likely to occur when the can contains a beer, or a soda water, etc. If the can cover is swelled upward, it may be impossible to provide a stay-on tab having one end and another end thereof respectively inclined upward from the upper surface of the can cover.

In Paragraph [0042], please substitute the paragraph as follows:

The present invention has the following advantages.

IN THE CLAIMS

In Claim 1, please substitute the claim as follows:

1. (Amended) A can cover comprised of a stay-on tab, said stay-on tab being attached to an upper surface of said can cover by a supporting means protruding upward from said can cover, said can cover being comprised of, under one end of said stay-on tab, scores for inducing rupture, said one end of said stay-on tab being adapted to push downward a portion surrounded by said scores so as to form a content take-out hole when another end of said stay-on tab is pulled-upward, said supporting means being connected to a central portion of said stay-on tab, said central portion of said stay-on tab being continued to said one end of said stay-on tab and separated from said another end of said stay-on tab so that said another end can be pulled upward from said upper surface of said can cover while said central portion remains in close contact with said upper surface of said can cover, wherein said one end and said another end of said stay-on tab are respectively inclined upward from said upper surface of said can cover so that there are distances between said one end of said stay-on tab and said upper surface of said can cover and between said another end of said stay-on tab and said upper surface of said can cover, the distance between said another end of said stay-on tab and said upper surface of said can cover being made larger when said one end of said stay-on-tab is pushed downward toward said upper surface of said can cover.

In Claim 2, please substitute the claim as follows:

2. (Amended) A can cover with a stay-on tab as claimed in claim 1, wherein said supporting means protruding upward from said can cover is comprised of an elliptic or polygonal section so as to prevent said stay-on tab from being turned in a horizontal direction.

In Claim 5, please substitute the claim as follows:

5. (Amended) A can cover with a stay-on tab as claimed in claim 1, wherein said can cover is comprised of wrinkles so as to prevent said can cover from being swelled upward by the expansion of the content of the can.

#### IN THE ABSTRACT

On page 11, please substitute the paragraph as follows:

A can cover with a stay-on tab, in which it is very easy to insert a finger between the stay-on tab and the upper surface of the can cover. One end and another end of the stay-on tab are respectively inclined upward from the upper surface of the can cover so that there are distances between the one end of the stay-on tab and the upper surface of the can cover and between another end of the stay-on tab and the upper surface of the can cover. The distance between another end of the stay-on tab and the upper surface of the can cover is made larger when the one end of the stay-on tab is pushed downward toward the upper surface of the can cover. The stay-on tab moves like a seesaw.

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REMARKS ON PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In this preliminary amendment, please consider the following remarks in conjunction with the amendments to the above-identified application as follows:

REMARKS

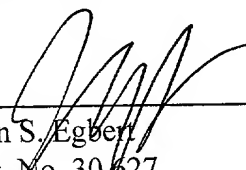
The present Preliminary Amendment has been entered for the purpose of placing the application into a more proper U.S. format. In particular, certain grammatical and idiomatic inconsistencies have been corrected by amendment to the specification, and the application is corrected for certain typographical errors found in the originally submitted application. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

The Claims and Abstract have been amended so as to conform with U.S. requirements.

Applicant respectfully requests that the present Amendment be entered prior to an initial Official Action on the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

1-4-02  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES in the PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In conjunction with the filing of the present application, and prior to an initial Official Action on this matter, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

In Paragraph [0004], the paragraph has been amended as follows:

However, the conventional can cover with said stay-on tab has the following [disadvantages:] disadvantages.

In Paragraph [0018], the paragraph has been amended as follows:

The can cover is often swelled upward by the expansion of the [content] contents of the can. This is likely to occur when the can contains a beer, or a soda water, etc. If the can cover is swelled upward, it may be impossible to provide a stay-on tab having one end and another end thereof respectively inclined upward from the upper surface of the can cover.

In Paragraph [0042], the paragraph has been amended as follows:

The present invention has the following [advantages:] advantages.

IN THE CLAIMS

In Claim 1, the claim has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A can cover [with] comprised of a stay-on tab, said stay-on tab being attached to an upper surface of said can cover by a supporting means protruding upward from said can cover, said can cover being [provided] comprised of, under one end of said stay-on tab [with], scores for inducing rupture, said one end of said stay-on tab being adapted to push downward a portion surrounded by said scores so as to form a content take-out hole when another end of said stay-on tab is pulled-upward, said supporting means being connected to a central portion of said stay-on tab, said central portion of said stay-on tab being continued to said one end of said stay-on tab and separated from said another end of said stay-on tab so that said another end can be pulled upward from said upper surface of said can cover while said central portion remains in close contact with said upper surface of said can cover,

wherein said one end and said another end of said stay-on tab are respectively inclined upward from said upper surface of said can cover so that there are distances between said one end of said stay-on tab and said upper surface of said can cover and between said another end of said stay-on tab and said upper surface of said can cover, the distance between said another end of said stay-on tab and said upper surface of said can cover being made larger when said one end of said stay-on-tab is pushed downward toward said upper surface of said can cover.

In Claim 2, the claim has been amended as follows:

2. (Amended) A can cover with a stay-on tab as claimed in claim 1, wherein said supporting means protruding upward from said can cover [has] is comprised of an elliptic or polygonal section so as to prevent said stay-on tab from being turned in a horizontal direction.

In Claim 5, the claim has been amended as follows:

5. (Amended) A can cover with a stay-on tab as claimed in claim 1, wherein said can cover [has] is comprised of wrinkles so as to prevent said can cover from being swelled upward by the expansion of the content of the can.

#### IN THE ABSTRACT

On page 11, the paragraph has been amended as follows:

A can cover with a stay-on tab, in which it is very easy to insert a finger between the stay-on tab [17] and the upper surface of the can cover. One end and another end of the stay-on tab are respectively inclined upward from the upper surface of the can cover so that there are distances [27, 29] between the one end of the stay-on tab and the upper surface of the can cover [15] and between another end [17b] of the stay-on tab [17] and the upper surface of the can cover [15]. The distance [29] between another end [17b] of the stay-on tab [17] and the upper surface of the can cover [15] is made larger when the one end [17a] of the stay-on tab is pushed downward toward the upper surface of the can cover. The stay-on tab [17] moves like a seesaw.